

To : The State Board of Education Members,  
The History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee of the Instructional Quality  
Commission Members

Chapter 15: Grade Ten – World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World  
Chapter of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools. Page  
469. Lines 913 ~ 919: “Comfort Women,” a euphemism for sexual ~~~ forced into these  
situations during Japanese occupation.

My comments are:

The history of comfort women is highly disputed between the nations of S. Korea and Japan. Many facts have become distorted and exaggerated by anti-Japanese activists. Reputable South Korean-born professors, Yu-ha Park (<http://goo.gl/uSWM44>) and C. Sarah Soh (<http://goo.gl/C83b8C>), who interviewed Korean comfort women and researched the subject in great detail, report that most Korean comfort women were recruited by civilians, that most worked at civilian-owned brothels, that many were paid (or their families had been paid), and that the women could return home when they served a certain number of years or fulfilled their indenture. Dishonest civilian recruiters deceived the women. The research by these professors indicate that, in Korea, comfort women were NOT systematically abducted by Japanese Imperial Army. Some instances of forcible recruitment did occur in territory Japan occupied during the war, but were committed by rogue soldiers acting illicitly. Unfortunately, these cases have been inappropriately generalized to all comfort women. Historically, other nations’ militaries have used indentured prostitutes, and it is unfair to target just Japan. When only one group is selectively targeted, it is “profiling” and, thus, wrong.

I humbly request that educators carefully investigate the facts before teaching inaccurate history in public schools. Historical evidence indicates: In the early 1900s, many people in Korea and Japan lived in dire poverty. The vast majority of Korean comfort women had been sent by their parents in exchange for advance payment or joined on their own, driven by poverty and the patriarchal nature of Korean society, where daughters were often under-appreciated and given little autonomy. The brokers who recruited Korean comfort women were civilians, and many were Korean men; dishonest brokers deceived the women. The Japanese military did NOT systematically dragoon young Korean girls and women.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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